

# CONSTRUCTION CONNECTIONS

Volume 2, Number 1

## Note from the Director

The New Year always brings new resolve to finish personal or professional goals we've left undone. It is also a time for reflection. Here at the Construction Center of Excellence (CCE), our Steering Committee, the Washington Construction Workforce Network, and our numerous partners statewide and nationally can look back at a productive 2006. I extend my sincere thanks to the individuals who have invested time and resources with us to improve construction workforce development.

The CCE has made headway on several key strategies in our two-year strategic plan, which you can review at [www.rtc.edu/CommunityResources/CCE](http://www.rtc.edu/CommunityResources/CCE). In particular, the events for the **Blueprint to Success – Construction Math Initiative**, co-sponsored with the Transition Math Project and the Associated General Contractors of Washington Education Foundation, will begin in February 2007. Fun workshops for middle and high school math and CTE teachers will be held in various locations around the state. Participants will receive a copy of our comprehensive Construction Math Toolbox. This toolbox includes our *Laying the Foundation – Construction Math* booklet, additional lesson plans, and extensive information linking academic achievement to career guidance. These workshops and products are free – please help us get the word out to teachers, who can register for events at our website.

If you are looking for a great partnership to kick start the New Year, look no further than your Centers of Excellence. There are currently eleven centers all focusing on key industries in Washington State. To learn more about our peer Centers, go to the State Board for Community and Technical College's website at <http://www.sbctc.ctc.edu/College/e-wkforcecentersofexcellence.aspx>.

In closing, I want to thank Steve Ignac, Apprenticeship Coordinator of the Lathing, Acoustical and Drywall Systems program for his service to our steering committee. I am confident he will remain an active contributor to improving construction workforce development, as he has been for many years. ~ Heather Winfrey

## Centers of Excellence - 2007 Legislative News

The Washington State Legislature convened its regular session on January 8, and education is a top priority to both the Governor and lawmakers. The State Board for Community and Technical College has submitted its budget for review, requesting continued and increased funding for the Centers of Excellence initiative.

The Centers of Excellence depend on continued state funding in order to continue growing our products and services. If you have benefited from our work, please let your legislators know! You can review Centers of Excellence accomplishments and educational efficiencies, as well as the Construction Center of Excellence's own Strategic Plan update, at: <http://www.rtc.edu/CommunityResources/CCE/index.aspx>.

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## Math and CTE Teachers - Register Now! FREE Blueprint for Success: Construction Math Workshops in your area!

The Construction Center of Excellence, in partnership with the Associated General Contractors of Washington Education Foundation, is pleased to offer FREE workshops for math and CTE teachers beginning in February. Teachers can earn 3 clock hours for attending these workshops, and receive a Construction Math Toolbox, which includes the **Laying the Foundation** math book, interactive lesson plans, and career guidance tools.

Industry-based mathematics demonstrates why students need to acquire and retain skill sets, regardless of their chosen career pathway. It also provides teachers with another way to reach students experiencing difficulty understanding mathematical concepts in a traditional setting.

These workshops are paid for by a one-year capacity grant with the Transition Math Project through the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges. Teachers who participate will learn more about the College Readiness Standards, and the ongoing work across Washington to reduce remediation rates between high school and post-secondary education.

Teachers can also register now for the five-day Construction Math Institute, held this year in Pierce and South King Counties. Teachers will visit worksites, employers, apprenticeships and colleges, and learn how rigorous academics are applied in construction.

### Construction Math Workshops

**Note:** Teachers are welcome to register for workshops outside of their districts, but we cannot pay for per diem or travel. Pasco, Washington – Tuesday, February 13, 2007

Pierce County, Washington – Thursday, February 15, 2007

Yakima, Washington – Thursday, February 27, 2007

Snohomish County, Washington, Friday, March 2, 2007

### Construction Math Institute

**Note:** Teachers from any district in Washington is welcome to attend this institute, but we cannot pay for per diem or travel.

Pierce and King Counties – June 25 –29, 2007

Registering for these events is easy – **but space is limited!** Go to <http://www.rtc.edu/CommunityResources/CCE> for online registration or call (425) 235-2352, extension 2217 for more details. You can also contact Derek Sparks at 206.284.4500.

## February is National Career and Technical Education Month!

The Association of Career-Technical Education (ACTE) has announced that the entire month of February will be recognized as “National Career and Technical Education” month, in order to help schools and their partners plan and promote related events and activities. Like Careers in Construction Week held the third week of October, this recognition month is a great time to promote construction workforce education.

The CCE has compiled a list of fun construction activities you can do in your classroom or school. For a listing of these activities go to <http://www.RTC.edu/CommunityResources/CCE/Resources/>.

## Western Nevada Community College Offers Construction Management as its First Baccalaureate Degree

*Forwarded to CCE by Judith Frey, Renton Technical College*

The Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents unanimously approved development of a Bachelor of Technology degree in Construction Management, to be offered through Western Nevada Community College. This would be the first of its kind for Western Nevada Community College, which currently offers an Associate of Applied Science degree in Construction Technology – Project Management.

Skilled workers will be able to enter the program at the level that fits their prior experience and education. Students can begin with dual credit programs in local high schools, continue with an associate degree in Construction Technology, and then move to the Bachelor of Technology degree.

Just as in Washington, there is a critical shortage of qualified construction managers in Nevada. Innovations in technology are changing how management occurs at worksites, especially with multiple contractor projects. This can be a terrific pathway for incumbent trades professionals who are debating retiring, or continuing in a new construction career.

## The CCE Steering Committee Exploring Improved Construction Workforce Outreach in 2007 and 2008

One of the two workforce priorities identified in the Construction Center of Excellence (CCE) Steering Committee two-year strategic plan is to elevate promotion and marketing efforts for all of construction education, statewide. At its January 2007 meeting, the committee began a conversation to examine existing assets, current challenges, and new ways of coordinating information.

It will continue this work in March, and will solicit training provider input in the near future. We anticipate brochures, training resources/catalogs, and improved/targeted message development will result from this group's efforts over the next year.

You can be part of this important work – if you have materials or promotion work that has been effective in your area, please share your ideas and tips with us by late February. Contact Heather Winfrey at 425.235.2352, extension 5582 for more information.

## Road Less Graveled Celebrates its Sixteenth Year Bringing Construction Education Opportunities to Whatcom County Residents

Bellingham Technical College has reason to celebrate: its acclaimed daylong event “Road Less Graveled” is marking its sixteenth year in making construction education and careers accessible to non-traditional talent.

There are two essential ingredients in the success of this event. First, partnership in planning and in overall event management makes this event stand apart from other recruitment fairs. Annual coordination with local leaders in education, government and community-based services has led to the formation of scholarships specifically for event attendees, which can be used for schooling or tools/equipment.

Second, but central to the event's design, Road Less Graveled highlights careers in construction through the voices of successful women. Some of the speakers once attended the event to learn about construction careers themselves, and many share their stories of balancing childcare, training, and part-time jobs to build a bright future for their families. These speakers serve on panels and supervise outside demonstrations and hands-on activities.

The Road Less Graveled model is among a select group recommended by the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges as an effective use of non-traditional Perkins funds. Event details, sponsors, and a poster are available at <http://roadlessgraveled.btc.ctc.edu/>.

## Bates Offers Exciting Continuing Education Classes for Construction

**Professionals** *Submitted by Rachele McGinnis, Bates Technical College Continuing Education Director*

Bates Technical College is now offering two series of continuing education programs for professionals interested in the lucrative construction sub-sectors of Green Building and Marine Construction.

The Environmentally Sound Construction Series introduces students to building standards identified in the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) by the U.S. Green Global Council. These classes focus on residential remodeling, materials usage, improving air and water quality, and on-site application of healthy construction practices.

The *Building the Foss Skiff Series* is being offered in partnership with the Tacoma Foss Waterway Seaport's Working Waterfront Museum, and provides students with hands-on traditional wooden small boat building. Courses in interpreting line drawings will help professionals transfer skill sets to the burgeoning marine construction industry. Similar courses are offered through the Wood Construction Center at Seattle Central Community College, Skagit Valley College and Clover Park Technical College, as high demand in boat building and maintenance is expected to grow unabated across Washington, particularly in the Central Puget Sound. Grays Harbor College continues to offer courses in Yacht Finish carpentry and have partnered with Centralia College to offer Marine Electrical classes. Both Green Building and Marine Construction offer incumbent workers a specialty pathway mid-career.

Students can register for individual courses, but will enjoy a discounted rate for registering for an entire series. To find out more or register, please call 253.680.7402 or 253.680.7300, or visit Bates' website at <http://www.bates.ctc.edu>.

## **The Puget Sound Chapter of the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) Brings Block Kids to Snohomish County Schools**

*Submitted by Judy Jewell, Olympian Pre-Cast and past NAWIC chapter president*

The Puget Sound Chapter NAWIC is bringing the fun Lego competition called "Block Kids" to Penny Creek Elementary in Everett on February 13, with a future competition in Lake Stevens in the works.

The program, which is administered by the NAWIC Education Foundation, has grown from a handful of participants to 22,000 children from first to sixth grades, and is hosted throughout the United States and Canada. Block Kids introduces these young students to the many exciting careers in construction and reinforces the academic and technical skills needed across the industry. In the competition, students are given one hour to build a structure of their choice, using 100 blocks, string, foil, Styrofoam, rock and poster board. The entrants are judged by industry volunteers on their creativity and attention to detail.

The Puget Sound NAWIC chapter brings together local women from all construction careers to support personal and professional development. This chapter was established in 1962, and is part of a larger region consisting of chapters in Alaska, Idaho and Oregon.

The chapter will be celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Women in Construction week (the first week of March) by hosting a benefit concert on Wednesday, March 7, featuring the local bands Rhythm Syndicate and Rocks Off (a Rolling Stones tribute band). Proceeds from this event will benefit local homeowners impacted by the severe wind and floods in the Puget Sound.

To find out more about Puget Sound membership, upcoming events listed in this article, and the association's rich history, go to <http://www.nawicpugetsound.org/>. The Spokane NAWIC chapter website is located at <http://www.nawicspokane.org/>.

## **Clark College offers new Construction Trades Customized Job Skills Training Program** *Submitted by Amy Pearson, Clark College*

Clark College is launching a new program this quarter to prepare students for careers in building trades in partnership with the Clark County Skills Center. This new course will be a full time, 12 week program for TANF WorkFirst parents who are interested in construction careers. In addition to hands-on training, students will learn computer skills, language skills, teamwork skills and will earn a certificate of completion.

The first class is scheduled to begin on January 23, 2007. For more details, please contact Neil Fykerud, WorkFirst Training Program Coordinator at Clark College, 360.992.2748 or [NFykerud@clark.edu](mailto:NFykerud@clark.edu).

## **Seattle City Council Members Working with Apprenticeship Partners to Reach Hard-to-Reach Communities** *Submitted by Carol O'Neill, Washington Women in Trades*

In September 2006, results of a Seattle City audit conducted to evaluate Parks, Education, Libraries and Labor concluded more could be done to reach and recruit potential workers who reside in hard to reach communities, particularly in city trades-related apprenticeships. This finding coincided with a Sound Transit/Multi Trade event publicized and held with Seattle Parks and Recreation, which was not as well attended as hoped.

However, these results segued into conversations among pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship partners in the King County area, re-examining practical ways to increase recruitment in targeted areas. The honorable Council members David Della and Sally Clark met individually with groups representing these programs to discuss recruitment and promotion activities.

In February, Sound Transit and the Construction Center of Excellence (CCE) will be hosting an evening working session to further discuss improved connectivity on King County and Seattle public works projects. It is anticipated that groups participating in this meeting will set forth a plan for improved recruitment, which other Washington cities can review through the CCE. More to come!

# Attention Schools and Teachers! The Associated General Contractors of Washington Education Foundation (AGCEF) Scholarship Deadlines Fast Approaching

*Submitted by Leanne Liddicoat, AGCEF Executive Director*

The AGCEF offers the **Get Smart! Scholarship** program each year to high school seniors and full-time college students pursuing careers in construction. Students entering or enrolled in construction management programs with universities, or pursuing a vocational certificate or two-year associates degree in construction-related training are encouraged to apply. Scholarships range from \$500 to \$5,000 per student, per year, and come from generous donations from private construction firm foundations. The deadline for applications is March 1, 2007; go to <http://www.agcwa.com/Public/education/Sch&GranAppDocs/2007%20Scholarship%20Competition%20Rules.pdf> for complete instructions.

The AGCEF also offers an Education Grant program for projects that address a demonstrated need in construction, such as outreach and career awareness in K-12, or barrier reduction in adult workforce populations. The deadline for these grants is February 1, 2007; the AGCEF may evaluate grants on a case-by-case basis throughout the year. For application details, visit: <http://www.agcwa.com/Public/education/Sch&GranAppDocs/2007%20Education%20Grant%20Application.pdf>

The AGCEF has long led development of extraordinary promotional tools for K-12, including its brochures, pathway design, and STEPS magazine. It is active in communities and classrooms across Washington State, and is a primary partner to the CCE in construction math and the two-year strategic plan for construction workforce development.

For more information, please contact Leanne Liddicoat at 206.284.4500.

## Industry Outlook for 2007: What's Happening in Construction?

The real estate bubble burst, predicted for nearly three years, certainly did “pop” in many residential markets across the nation late last year. However, this bubble has not halted overall industry growth, particularly in regional economies with commercial, public works, and multi-family projects underway, such as the Central Puget Sound.

While recent research conducted by Moody's Economy.com shows construction jobs are declining in several metro areas across the U.S., it indicates the first workers shed in a recessive economy have little or no formal training. Many projects experienced significant delays during the boom residential period, and contractors hired any available worker with the intention to meet demand. As the market adjusts, qualified workers will be more likely to be retained – making it essential for anyone considering a construction career to pursue training now.

Like most non-farm industries, the boom and bust of residential construction is actually normal in a historical context. Over the last thirty years, growth and decline in this sector has been tied to federal interest rates as well as consumer confidence ratings, which accounts for a range of indirect social and political factors impacting everyday decisions.

Washington's real estate markets, such as the Seattle and surrounding King County areas, are in better shape than other housing markets in the U.S., thanks to continued steady levels of in-migration, according to the Washington State Economic and Revenue Forecast Council (ERFC). As Information Technology, Energy, Health Care and other high growth sectors attract and retain incumbent-level talent from other regions of the country, a certain demand level for housing will remain.

This does not necessarily mean affordable single unit housing will be available – in fact, the trend toward multi-family complexes is a direct result of inflated market values, even if it is promoted as a lifestyle choice in urban areas. In its November 2006 report, the EFRC noted building permits edged up overall in the third quarter of last year, with a decline in single residence units, and a considerable jump in multi-family units.

The Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County and the Washington State Department of Employment Security recently developed a power point presentation on construction workforce projections that is quite informative. This presentation is posted at <http://www.seakingwdc.org>.

## OSPI Releases its Progress Report on Running Start for the Trades

The Career Technical Education department of the Washington State Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) released a report this month indicating good progress made among the four demonstration projects selected last year to increase articulations between high schools and post-secondary apprenticeship and construction training programs. The same report also cites challenges and opportunities for expansion of this groundbreaking initiative.

Alignment with other dual credit programs, especially Tech Prep, will be essential to long-term sustainability of Running Start for the Trades. Working groups across Washington are exploring both new articulations, as well as elevating current construction-related dual credit opportunities.

## School to Apprenticeship Applications Available for Students in Pierce County

*Submitted by Rebecca Harrison, Tacoma-Pierce Workforce Development Council*

Information and 2007 application packets for the pre-apprenticeship programs Get Electrified, Frame Your Future, and Cutting Edge Technologies in Sheet Metal/HVAC Services are available for students! The School to Apprenticeship program targets juniors entering their senior year in the fall of 2007. Students must have a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or better, a good attendance record, have enough credits to enroll in a work-based learning course, and be able to pass a drug test. Students must also have a valid Washington State driver's license and reliable transportation by the time they begin the program in June.

In an effort to provide quality outreach for these programs, Trudy Johnson is available for appointments Tuesdays through Thursdays to meet with students. Suggested formats include; brown bag lunches, construction class presentations, or Career Center visits. Ms. Johnson can also answer organizational questions for schools interested in replicating this program. She can be contacted at 253.404.3988 or [tjohnson@pic.tacoma.wa.us](mailto:tjohnson@pic.tacoma.wa.us).

Application packets can be obtained from career counselors at Pierce County high schools, or online at <http://www.buildingyourcareer.com/Wc134ce567810a.htm>. **Applications are due February 28, 2007.**

### Upcoming Events.....

2007 Licensed to Survey  
February 28 - March 3, 2007  
Visit [www.lsaw.org](http://www.lsaw.org) for details

WAOE/Tech Prep Conference  
March 1 and 2, 2007  
Shilo Inn, Ocean Shores, WA

The Sixteenth Annual Road Less Graveled  
March 16, 2007  
Bellingham Technical College, Bellingham WA

2007 WABO Annual Education Institute  
April 2 - 6, 2007  
Hilton Conference Center, Vancouver WA

2007 Women in Trades Fair  
April 27, 2007  
Seattle Center Fisher Pavilion

Welding Rodeo 2007  
6th Annual Welded Sculpture Competition  
May 18 and 19, 2007  
Bellingham Technical College, Bellingham WA

Aviation, Construction, Engineering and Safety Young Women Academy (ACE)  
July 6 - 8, 2007  
Central Washington University, Ellensburg WA

## The Aspen Institute Announces Its Third Sector Skills Academy

The Aspen Institute's Workforce Strategies Initiative and Public/Private Ventures, with principle support from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, are announcing a new application process for the third fellowship in the Sector Skills Academy. This national opportunity provides a forum for 24 leaders in sectoral workforce development for peer learning and professional growth.

Applications to the Academy will be accepted through March 16, 2007.

To learn more, visit: <http://www.sectorskillsacademy.org>.

### *Did You Know...*

...that the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Washington Women in Trades Fair at Fischer Pavilion is scheduled for April 27? This fun event attracts women of all ages to learn about construction workforce opportunities – more to come in our March Construction Connections edition, or go to <http://www.wawomenintrades.com/> for details.

...there are 11 Centers of Excellence serving industries critical to Washington's workforce development? Check out our peer Centers at <http://www.sbctc.ctc.edu/College/e-wkforcecentersofexcellence.aspx>.

...the Construction Center of Excellence and the Renton Technical College library have an extensive inter-library loan system of construction-related publications? Go to <http://www.rtc.edu/communityresources/CCE/Resources/>.

...the Pierce County Construction Partnership also has a free online newsletter? Contact Rebecca Harrison at 253.404.3983 to receive the monthly, informative **Ground Floor** publication.

...there are 30 colleges offering construction training in Washington? Coming soon to the CCE website – a one-page chart showing where quality construction training is located at a community or technical college near you!

...the CCE website, which is part of the larger Renton Technical College network, is maintained by Judy Amico? If you have an event or resource you'd like to share, please call her at 425.235.2352, extension 2217.

...that you can download "ESL for the Trades" course descriptions, syllabus, and recommended materials at [www.rtc.edu/CommunityResources/CCE](http://www.rtc.edu/CommunityResources/CCE) - if your school or college is planning to use this pilot, please let us know!

## The Construction Center of Excellence Steering Committee

Steve Baldwin, [Snohomish County Workforce Development Council](#)

Chuck Bailey, [Ironworkers Local #86](#)

William Bender, [Central Washington University](#)

Beth Blanchard, [Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County](#)

Lucy Bodilly, [Northwest Construction](#)

Bill Bowser, [Puget Sound Electrical JATC](#)

Dick Chamblin, [Bates Technical College](#)

Pinky Dale, [South Seattle Community College/Duwamish Apprenticeship and Education Center](#)

Marvin Doster, [Mortenson & Company](#)

Willie Elliott, [Tacoma Pierce County Employment & Training Consortium](#)

Matt Gordon, [New Market Skill Center](#)

Peter Guzman [City of Tacoma](#)

Melina Harris, [Sisters In the Building Trades](#)

Rebecca Harrison, [Tacoma Pierce County Employment & Training Consortium](#)

**Ed Holmes**, [Seattle Area Pipe Trades](#)  
**Rick Hermanson**, [Hermanson Company](#)  
**Mike Hudson**, [Institute of Workforce Development and Economic Sustainability, Association of Washington Business](#)  
**Sandra Husband**, [Washington State Department of Labor & Industries](#)  
**Uriel Iniquez**, [Washington State Commission, Hispanic Affairs](#)  
**Judy Jewell**, [Olympian Precast](#)  
**Rodd Kippen**, [Pro-Cost](#)  
**Sean Lewis**, [Absher Construction](#)  
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**Kevin Managhan**, [Inland Empire Electrical Training Trust](#)  
**Amy Martinez**, [Tri-County Workforce Development Council](#)  
**Rachelle Leigh McGinnis**, [Bates Technical College](#)  
**Lee Newgent**, [Seattle-King County Building and Construction Trades Council AFL-CIO](#)  
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**Eric Peterson**, [Western Washington Sheet Metal JATC](#)  
**Dave Perrin**, [Construction Industry Training Council](#)  
**Ken Pierson**, [Seattle-Tacoma Occupational Skills Center](#)  
**Melissa Pressley**, [KIRO TV](#)  
**Cal Pygott**, [Bothell High School](#)  
**Arne Reyier**, [Rushforth Construction](#)  
**Rickie Robinson**, [King County Housing Authority](#)  
**Denise Salo**, [Sound Transit](#)  
**Sam Samano**, [Snohomish County Workforce Development Council](#)  
**Tawny Sayers**, [Northwest Laborers Employers Training Trust](#)  
**John Schaufelberger**, [University of Washington](#)  
**Doug Steinmetzer**, [Heat and Frost Insulators/Asbestos Workers Apprenticeship](#)  
**Darlene Septelka**, [King County Bridgewater Project](#)  
**Kathy Swan**, [Pacific NW Regional Council of Carpenters](#)  
**Ed Thomas**, Retired Welder  
**Kathy L .Thomas**, [Tri-County Workforce Development Council](#)  
**Don Thompson**, Commercial Welding  
**Colleen Vadheim**, [Pierce College](#)  
**Dale Wentworth**, [Seattle Area Pipe Trades](#)  
**Anne Wetmore**, [US Department of Labor](#)  
**Valerie Whitman**, [Max J Kuney Company](#)